



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

July 15, 2005

News Release

ICE REMOVES 771 CRIMINAL ALIENS, STATUS VIOLATORS FROM 5-STATE AREA DURING JUNE

NEW ORLEANS — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers announced today that the Detention and Removal Operations office here deported a total of 771 criminal and non-criminal aliens during June.

Those deported were lawfully ordered to leave the United States by a federal immigration judge and were removed to the following countries of origin: Mexico, Honduras, China, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, India and Pakistan.

The offenses of the criminal aliens removed included: drug possession, assault on a police officer, sex offenses, aggravated assault, weapons theft, sexual assault on a child, mail fraud, homicide, kidnapping, weapons violations, theft, fraud, robbery, attempted murder, arson, rape, prostitution, smuggling aliens, counterfeiting, and others.

“Our officers help ensure that the United States isn’t a haven for criminal aliens,” said Field Office Director Craig Robinson. “Criminal aliens are not welcome here. ICE works daily to arrest and deport such criminals, and at the same time we make our own communities safer. We are committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system”. Robinson heads the ICE New Orleans Detention and Removal Operations office, which includes the following five-state area: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee.

This local enforcement operation is part of a 10-year strategic national initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing the more than 400,000 absconders and 80,000 fugitive criminal aliens with outstanding final orders of removal that are hiding in the United States.

Criminal aliens are non-citizens who have committed felonies or other crimes that make them ineligible to remain in the United States in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act. Status violators have no legal status to be in the United States under the act, but have not committed crimes.

A primary goal of ICE's Detention and Removal program is to reduce the number of alien absconders who are hiding in the United States. Absconders are foreign nationals who have been ordered removed by a federal immigration judge, but failed to comply with those orders. Since absconders have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.